

PATENT

Application No. 09/221,250
Attorney Docket No.: 98-057**SPECIFICATION AMENDMENTS
MARKED UP FORM****The paragraph beginning at page 20, line 15 has been amended as follows:**

In yet an alternate embodiment, rather than enabling communication between sensor devices 100a-c and user devices 300a-c via the Internet, central server 200 causes the video/audio data stream received from sensor devices 100a-c to be transmitted to user devices 300a-c via a dedicated television channel of a wireless or cable television system. The user can then monitor the video/audio data on the user device, which, in this embodiment, is preferably a television set. In addition, if the user device includes a picture-in-picture feature, the user can employ this feature to monitor the video data while watching a program on another television station. In these embodiments, a user can submit a request to monitor a remote location via an interactive television set or, via his telephone by calling the operator of central server 200, if this television does not include an interactive feature. In an alternate embodiment, in addition to a video camera, the sensor device(s) 100a-c include detectors for detecting predetermined events (e.g., a predetermined level of motion, sound, light intensity, etc.) at the remote location. When a predetermined event is detected by the sensor device, a signal indicative of the predetermined event is transmitted from the central server to functionality in the television set via the wireless or cable television system. In response to the received signal, the functionality in the television set preempts the television program currently being watched by the user to display the video/audio data received from the video camera (e.g., the television will change channels to the dedicated television channel). Alternatively, the functionality in the television set may simply display a visual alert to the user to manually change channels to the dedicated television channel.

[[WE NEED SOME CLAIMS DIRECTED TO THIS MANUAL EMBODIMENT]] In these embodiments, functionality in the television set may also cause an audible alarm to be issued to inform the user that a predetermined event has been detected at the remote sensor. Thus, the user may engage in other activities, such as household chores, while monitoring a remote location in exchange for value.